

SENATE RESOLUTION 157

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Emily "Boo" Ruch
on being selected the 2009 National Secondary
Art Educator of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the
highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emily "Boo" Ruch is one such estimable educator, who has
distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruch was deservedly selected the 2009 National Secondary Art
Educator of the Year at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Convention; and

WHEREAS, this gifted professional also brought home state honors, as she was named
Tennessee Art Educator of the Year by the NAEA; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruch has taught art in Memphis City Schools for thirty-one years and
presently serves with distinction as the Director of Visual Arts for the Creative and Performing
Arts High School at Overton; and

WHEREAS, by promoting art education and art students on many levels, Dr. Ruch has
created a nationally recognized program at Overton, as her students consistently gain high
advanced placement scores and receive prestigious awards; and

WHEREAS, a selfless educator more concerned with student achievement than
personal credit, Dr. Ruch serves willingly "as a mentor to new teachers, a trainer for mentors,
and a facilitator for professional development"; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Dr. Ruch presented art curriculum and her student's art work to
other art teachers in Australia and New Zealand as part of a People-to-People curriculum
exchange program; and

WHEREAS, an adjutant instructor for the University of Memphis who teaches Art for Secondary, Dr. Ruch collaborated on a vertical teaching project that modeled thematic, cross-cultural art teaching with students at the middle school, high school, and college levels; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruch and her colleagues presented this process, along with quality student art products, internationally at the U.S. China Joint Education Conference held at Beijing Normal University in December 2005; and

WHEREAS, she holds the distinction of being the first art teacher in Tennessee to receive national board certification, having earned such certification in 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, one of Dr. Ruch's many fine students, Ebony Robinson, won a Top 5 Gold Portfolio at the National Scholastic Art Competition in New York, for which she received a Gold Medal from artist Faith Ringgold, a \$10,000 first place prize, and a full scholarship to attend the Maryland Institute College of Art; and

WHEREAS, during last school year alone, the graduating seniors in art at Overton High School received over 1.3 million dollars in scholarship money, a testament to Dr. Ruch's influence, effectiveness, and dedication as an educator; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donalyn Heise, Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis and Art Education Program Coordinator, has aptly described Dr. Ruch as "a visionary person who sees obstacles as opportunities...[and] has the skills to follow an idea through to completion" and "a leader in our field and an asset to our profession"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruch truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Emily "Boo" Ruch on her selection as the 2009 National Secondary Art Educator of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Memphis, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.